

Chicago, IL

Regional Transportation Authority Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan



Nelson\Nygaard completed a coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). This study, branded as Connecting Communities through Coordination, spanned the city of Chicago and suburban Cook County as well as the six collar counties, an area with a population of some 8.2 million people.

Connecting Communities through Coordination was designed to meet federal coordinated planning requirements associated with the SAFETEA-LU legislation. Beyond these requirements, the RTA wished to create a policy document that would guide coordination of regional community transportation services. The overarching goal was to stretch federal funding in order to maximize the number of trips served and expand services and mobility options for persons with disabilities, older adults, and persons with low incomes in the region.

Nelson\Nygaard successfully completed this plan within a seven month time frame, from the project kick-off meeting in early January 2007 until the final report was submitted in late July. During this time, Nelson\Nygaard conducted a ten-task work plan that included the inventory of existing conditions, preparing a transportation needs assessment, identifying redundant services and gaps in service, developing policy and strategy recommendations, and creating an evaluation criteria to guide future project selection.

The work plan also included an extensive public outreach campaign that included: establishing a project advisory committee and meeting monthly with them; interviewing an extensive list of stakeholders; conducting an on-line survey distributed to over 1,000 service providers; conducting eight county level workshops and six focus groups across the region; and developing an interactive project website. A database of stakeholders was also developed. The extensive public outreach effort helped create regional support for the project and helped contribute to its success.

Project Duration: 2007

Total Budget: \$570,000

For more information:

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